

MORE ON SCHERMACKS

The following is text of a letter received by the editor from Larry S. Weiss (#1310) of Pittsburgh:

I noted the short item in the February, 1979 Perfins Bulletin regarding a Schermack Type III coil, #346, with a 12-hole open square Perfin pattern punched. I also have a similar item that I have been meaning to write about for the Bulletin.

The #346 that I have is the same coil with the same Schermack Type III perfs, same 12-hole open square pattern, and also is used. The stamp is canceled by a seven line wavy cancel with a "D" interrupting the lower two lines at the bottom left corner of the stamp. I note that Mr. Ehrbar's example has a five line wavy cancel.

In Mr. Ehrbar's stamp, the 12-hole square is centered about perfectly in the vertical direction. My copy has the pattern centered a bit above center vertically.



This facsimile copy has been retouched and may not be precisely accurate. The original was too dark to reproduce well.

The centering of the design is also different between the two stamps, as is the position of the rectangular Schermack perforations. This, in addition to the above enumerated differences, should confirm that more than 20 such stamps were used, since the stamp centering alone on a coil usually changes after every 20 stamps on the hand-pasted coils of 1909. Few must have been saved, since there are no previous reports in the Perfins Club publications.

In general, trying to collect any of the patterns existing on Schermack coils on any issues other than the 1 and 2 cent values, #'s 343, 344, 383, and 384, is a challenging task. I know of a 37 pattern on #345. Others exist and probably have gone unreported due to a lack of interest in issue collecting.

I would be happy to compile an issue survey of Perfins on Schermack coils if members would provide tabulations of their collections. The most useful information would include the distinction between the double line watermarked items and those single line watermarked. Members unable to provide this distinction would still provide valuable information by reporting.

Thanks for reporting my recent exhibit in the show of the Philatelic Society of Pittsburgh. The exhibit not only received the Perfins Club Honor Award Ribbon (being the only Perfin exhibit this was easily awarded), but it placed second in the Modern U. S. category. Considering the very low value of the material displayed, this once again shows that Perfins can be used to produce interesting worthwhile exhibits that judges take seriously.